

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 4, 7-11, and 13 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 5-6, 12, and 14 have been canceled; claims 4, 7-11 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter of Claims 12 and 14

It is appreciatively noted that claims 12 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claims 11 and 13 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 12 and 14, respectively.

§103 Rejection of Claims 1, 4-6, and 10

In Section 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 4-6, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted Prior Art in view of Baba *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,703,468; hereinafter referred to as "Baba"). Claims 1 and 5-6 have been canceled. Claims 4 and 10 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 11.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 4-6, and 10 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of Claims 7 and 9

In Section 3 of the Office Action, claims 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted Prior Art in view of Baba, further in view of Sasaki *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,465; hereinafter referred to as "Sasaki").

Since claims 7 and 9 have been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 11, claims 7 and 9 should be allowable over the cited prior art references.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 7 and 9 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of Claim 8

In Section 4 of the Office Action, claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted Prior Art in view of Baba, further in view of Takao (U.S. Patent No. 4,764,860).

Since claim 8 has been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 11, claim 8 should be allowable over the cited prior art references.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claim 8 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of Claims 11 and 13

In Section 5 of the Office Action, claims 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted Prior Art in view of Nagata (U.S. Patent No. 5,481,526).

Since claims 11 and 13 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 12 and 14, respectively, claims 11 and 13 should be allowable over the cited prior art references.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 11 and 13 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 4, 7-11, and 13 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

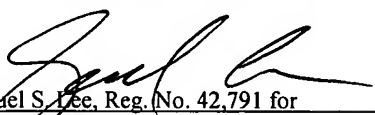
In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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